FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 DECEMBER 1984

Mauritania

According to AFP, a coup has installed former Prime Minister Maaouyia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya as Mauritania's new leader, ousting President Mohamed Haydala, who was attending the Franco-African summit meeting in Burundi. AFP also quoted Radio Nouakchott as saying "everything was calm" in the Mauritanian capital and added that a communique signed by Taya had announced the "restructuring" of the Military Committee of National Salvation, the governing body of the country, although all ministers have reportedly retained their posts.

Iran-Iraq conflict

An Iranian military spokesman denied Iraq's 11 December claim of an attack on Gulf shipping, IRNA reported, citing confirmation from "nautical sources" in Manama that there had been no report of vessels being hit. At the battlefronts, Iraqi fighter planes returned safely after inflicting heavy losses during further combat missions in the Maysan sector, according to an Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast by Baghdad radio.

Lebanon

In Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad received Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt for talks on the Lebanese situation, according to Damascus television. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam also discussed Lebanon with visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the television noted.

As for Israel's threat to stage a unilateral withdrawal if the impasse in the Al-Naqurah talks continues, a Lebanese official cited by Beirut radio stressed that this step will mean the "death" of the talks and will create security disturbances in the south.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has accepted an invitation from President Nicolae Ceausescu to visit Romania, probably in February, *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported.

Syria

Unidentified gunmen fired at the Syrian charge d'affaires in Athens, who escaped the assassination attempt and fired back at his attackers, Athens radio announced.

Afghanistan

Soviet and Afghan forces are strengthening their defenses around Kabul, Karachi radio reported, adding that trenches have been dug around the city and rocket launchers installed at Kabul airport. Last week the mujahidin's "frequent" rocket attacks on the city tapered off, according to Western diplomatic sources cited by SPA. Meanwhile, Karachi radio noted, Pakistan lodged a strong protest with the DRA over a cross-border bombing raid in Kurram.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Karmal Sends Message to Gandhi, Zail Singh on Bhopal
LD120550 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, December 11, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA has sent a message of sympathies addressed to President Zail Singh and Premier Rajiv Gandhi of India on the tragedy which followed the leakage of poisonous gas of Union Carbide factory in Bhopal.

The message expresses the hope that the people and government of the DRA, preceding from the historical and cultural relations of long standing and the traditional brotherly friendship with the great Indian people were deeply moved by this tragic event and share the feelings of the people of India on this great disaster. [sentence as received]

Indian Leaders Acknowledge Assassination Condolences
LD120615 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0432 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, December 11, BAKHTAR — A message by President Zail Singh of India addressed to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has been received here. The message is in response to the condolence of Babrak Karmal on the death of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The president of India in his message has expressed gratitude for the sympathy of the government, people of Afghanistan and Babrak Karmal in person on the demise of Indira Gandhi as well as for the participation of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of Politburo of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA along with Mahmud Barialay, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA CC in the funeral ceremonies of Indira Gandhi.

The message also expresses hope that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries would continue in years to come.

Another message from Premier Rajiv Gandhi addressed to Babrak Karmal has also been received here.

This message manifests the profound appreciation of the government, people and Rajiv Gandhi in person for the condolences of the government and people of Afghanistan on the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi and expresses the hope for prolongation of mutual and fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

PDPA's Keshtmand Addresses Nationalities Officials
LD112237 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, met the participants of a seminar, heads of departments and personnel of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs.

At this meeting, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke about the duties of the personnel of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs in general and in particular about the organization of political and propaganda work among the nationalities and tribes, and said:

After the national and democratic April revolution and particularly after the new development stage of the April revolution, the party and the DRA Government have embodied in their action program the solution of national issues. The duties and mission of the personnel of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs are extremely heavy and important for the implementation of this national objective, especially under the present circumstances in our society.

Referring to the Law on Local Organs of the State Administration and Power, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said:

Positive and fundamental steps have been taken in this respect; this law, which demonstrates democracy as its genuine feature, will play an important role in the political life of the country's workers.

Regarding the policy of the party and government on (?respecting) the traditions and praiseworthy customs of the nationalities and tribes residing in Afghanistan, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said:

A realistic and careful approach has been explained in the policy of the PDPA and the DRA Government regarding the tradition and customs of the people, and the evil heritage of the past regimes in this connection which created discord among the favious tribes and nationalities has been eliminated.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after Soltan 'Ali Kesh tmand's talk the following spoke: the head of the Herat Province Nationalities and Tribal Affairs Department, a Khost district official in charge of propaganda among nationalities and tribes, and the head of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs Publication Department. The speakers also gave assurances of further expansion of the political and popular work among the country's tribes and nationalities for the realization of the party and government objective.

Kabul: Rebels Suffer Defeats, Defections
LD092215 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Quoting a DRA security force, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a number of our deceived compatriots, members of the criminal Gulbuddin band headed by Zabihullah, took advantage of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium's amnesty decree. Realizing the PDPA's lofty aims, they surrendered recently to the security authorities in Badghis Province's Qades district, bringing along 17 types of weapons and a rocket launcher. They promised to defend the motherland to the end, to build a new and just society, and to fight counterrevolutionaries, murderers infiltrated from abroad.

According to a report from Faryab Province, as a result of successful operations recently mounted in the villages of that province, a number of armed rebels were crushed and 12 of these murderers captured. Thirty-two assorted weapons, 4 missiles with 11 shells, a box of hand grenades, and a large amount of assorted ammunition were seized.

Afghan Clandestine Reports Mujahidin Operations
GF120645 (Clandestine) Voice of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Our mujahidin brothers carried out an attack on the AAPSO meeting which was held in Kabul in support of the Soviet Union. As a result of this attack, which was carried out most successfully, our mujahidin brothers succeeded in killing a number of the members of this meeting, including seven from the occupying force of the Soviet Union.

According to further reports our mujahidin brothers, with complete coordination and great vigilance, have kept under surveillance most of the highways of our Islamic homeland. According to secret information the elements which cooperate with our Muslim mujahidin, who have infiltrated into the Karmal forces and other government organizations, have inflicted effective and useful blows on the occupying Soviet forces and the mercenary Karmal regime.

Our mujahidin brothers recently attacked the Karmal mercenary forces and the occupying Soviet soldiers at the (?Salang) highway and succeeded in destroying 4 transport vehicles of the enemy and killed 24 of the enemy.

Karachi: Karmal Forces Strengthening Kabul Defenses
BK111544 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Reports say that in Afghanistan, the Soviet-Karmal forces are strengthening their defense around Kabul in view of the danger of new attacks by mujahidin. Diplomatic sources say new trenches have been dug on the eastern and western sides of Kabul to keep mujahidin from entering the city. [Words indistinct] will mark the 6th year of the Soviet forces' intervention in Afghanistan. Three new Soviet rocket launchers have also been installed at Kabul Airport.

Another report says the mujahidin have occupied a base of the Karmal forces west of Herat.

SPA: Mujahidin Successes Against Soviet-Karmal Troops
LD112012 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 11, SPA — Seventeen entire families of Afghans were killed last week by the Soviet-Afghan soldiers in Chal town of Takhar Province in northern Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

They said the families were killed by the communist forces as a vicious retaliatory attack on the town, where the mujahidin are believed to have been active and putting up stiff resistance from there.

In another encounter in the Salang highway in northern Afghanistan, the mujahidin destroyed 25 trucks when they launched a sudden attack on a large fuel-truck convoy of the Kabul regime, which was passing the Salang tunnel on December 3.

The sources said mujahidin also shot down a Soviet transport plane near Kabul on November 25, as frequent rocket attack on Kabul targets tapered off during last week.

They confirmed that six men of the Afghan secret police (KHAD) were killed in Bamyian square of Kabul on December 3.

Further on Gandhi Concern Over Sri Lanka

BK111623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister has expressed concern over the rapidly deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka. He has appealed to the Sri Lanka Government to take steps to defuse the present situation. In a statement in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi urged the Sri Lanka Government to give the lead at the all-party conferences scheduled for Friday to achieve a viable political settlement which meets the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils and is acceptable to all concerned. The prime minister pointed out that from the beginning India has impressed upon all concerned the necessity of a political settlement within the framework of unity and integrity of Sri Lanka.

The prime minister said that there is a sharp escalation of violence in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka where heavy loss of innocent lives has taken place. Many Tamils of Indian origin who have settled in those areas were among the victims. The security forces have been indulging in indiscriminate killings. Following the imposition of a security zone in the Jaffna peninsula, Jaffna town is under virtual seige. There is an acute shortage of food. Hundreds of youth are reported to have been take into custody and shifted to unknown destinations. The creation of a so-called surveillance zone in the narrow Palk Strait has been used to attack, harass and apprehend innocent Indian fishermen who have enjoyed traditional fishing rights in these waters, Mr Gandhi said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. President's special anvoy, General Vernon Walters, who held discussions in Colombo for the last 2 days, is due to arrive in New Delhi today. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that General Walters will meet the chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Mr G. Parthasarathy, tomorrow.

The spokesman said that India has lodged a strong protest with Sri Lanka against the arrest of Indian fishermen and capture of their fishing boats in the Palk Strait. The protest was conveyed to the Sri Lanka commissioner, Mr B. Tilakaratna, who was called to the Foreign Office today.

Security forces are reported to have launched a second major offensive in northern Sri Lanka. The strike launched yesterday under cover of the 61-hour curfew clamped on Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts is intended to round up more people. The security forces have already detained 300 suspected Tamil militants during a 2-day weekend swoop and 42-hour curfew in the area.

A fisherman of Rameswaram was killed and two others were injured when a Sri Lankan navy patrol opened fire on their mechanized boats last night. They were fishing well within the Indian territorial waters of Kondapar when the patrol party opened fire without any provocation. About 3,000 fishermen took out a procession this morning at Rameswaram condemning the incident.

Delhi Reports Sri Lankan Offensive

BK111325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, security forces are reported to have launched a second major offensive in the north. The strike, launched yesterday under cover of the 61-hour curfew clamped on Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts, is intended to round up more separatists. The security forces have already detained 300 suspected Tamil militants during a 2-day weekend swoop and 42-hour curfew in the area.

President Reaffirms Peaceful Coexistence Policy

BK111134 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has said India is dedicated to the principles of peaceful coexistence. The country is making every effort to strengthen its friendship with all nations in general and neighbors in particular. Giani Zail Singh was speaking in New Delhi today after awarding colors to the Squadron 9 and Air Headquarters Communications Squadron of the Indian Air Force.

The president said that the country should be ever ready to meet any threat to its territorial integrity while continuing to make efforts for peace and goodwill. The pres dent described the armed forces as an excellent example of national integration and unity. He expressed the confidence that the men in uniform will do their best and continue to render service to the nation with devotion.

Further Reportage on Bhopal Gas Disaster

Gas Neutralization To Begin

BK121258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] The process of neutralizing the leftover gas in the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal is to begin on Sunday next [16 December]. The chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, announced this at a news conference in Bhopal today. The process is likely to continue for about 5 days. Mr Singh said there is no danger of any kind during the neutralization, as it will be done under the supervision of noted scientists. He said that after examinations by the experts it has been found that the most practical and safest way to neutralize the remaining gas is to convert it into pesticides. The leftover gas is estimated to be about 15 tons. All safety measures will be adopted during the process.

Mr Arjun Singh reiterated that though there is no danger of any kind, people living in the close vicinity of the factory may be shifted if they so desire to the camps being set up by the state government in other areas of the city. He reiterated that this is only a precautionary measure and there is no cause for any panic or anxiety. The chief minister appealed to the people not to give credence to rumors. Meanwhile, the junior doctors of the city's Hamidia Hospital have withdrawn their strike. The hospital services are now normal.

Official Rules Out Evacuation

BK111637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Arjun Sinh, has said that there will be no need for evacuation of people from Bhopal. In a broadcast from the Bhopal station of All-India Radio a short while ago, the chief minister said an expert team is engaged in working out a zero-risk method to neutralize the remaining methyl isocynate gas in the Union Carbide factory. He said as soon as the scientists give their opinion people will be taken into confidence and given at least 3 days notice before any action for neutralization of the gas is taken. He appealed to the people not to be carried away by wild rumors and said there is no need for panic.

A spokesman of the state transport corporation has denied rumors that some buses were requisitioned outside to transport people from the city. He said the buses had been requisitioned only to cope with the rush of people who had come to Bhopal to enquire about the welfare of their relatives and are now returning. Schools and colleges in the city, including the central schools, have been ordered to remain closed from tomorrow till the 23d of this month.

In the United States a $20 billion compensation suit has been filed in a New York court against the Union Carbide by a group of attorneys for the mass death and destruction caused by the gas leakage. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has issued notice to the center, the Madhya Pradesh government, and the Union Carbide on a petition seeking compensation of 500,000 rupees to the next of kin of the victims. It directed that petition should come up for hearing on the 15th of next month.

Demonstration Outside U.S. Embassy

BK120849 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] A number of people whose families have been affected by the Bhopal gas tragedy held a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi today. They were demanding closure of the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal and adequate compensation to next of kin of those killed in the tragedy. Later, the demonstrators submitted a memorandum to an official of the embassy.

Janata Party Criticizes Congress-I Government

BK111037 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] The Janata Party president, Mr Chandras Shekhar, has criticized the Congress-I government for spreading television and radio network by overlooking the basic needs of the people. Addressing a meeting at Hazaribagh in Bihar, he also alleged that the government has misused International Monetary Fund funds without undertaking any development work.

Mizo Front Leader Holds Talks in New Delhi

BK111403 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Talks were held in New Delhi today between the Mizo National Front leader, Mr Laldenga, and Mr G. Parthasarathy, chairman of the policy planning committee in the External Affairs Ministry. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere. Later, Mr Laldenga said that he is hopeful of an outcome of the talks. Another round of talks will be held on Saturday next before Mr Laldenga leaves for London.

Spokesman Confirms Seizure of Pakistani Trawler

BK111639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that a Pakistani trawler was apprehended in the Indian territorial waters near Gujarat in October. There were 16 men in it who are now under judicial custody. A case was registered. The spokesman said that the Pakistan Government had been informed of this. He said Pakistan's contention that the trawler was within their own territorial waters was found to be incorrect after investigations.

Zia Interviewed on Elections, Afghanistan
PM111655 Paris LE MATIN in French 4 Dec 84
pp 16,17

[Interview with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq by correspondent Philippe Flandrin — date and place not given]

[Text] *LE MATIN*: Since the coup d'etat which brought you to power in 1977 you have undertaken the Islamization of Pakistan. What does Islam mean to you?

Ziaul Haq: As a Muslim I must say that Islam is everything. For the believers in this country, Islam is more than a religion, it is a way of life. In Arabic we call that a din. The din covers all aspects of your existence, be they personal, familial, political, or social. Nothing is excluded. As a very humble Muslim, I regard the din as a complete code of conduct, without which there cannot be men worthy of the name. I do not mean you necessarily have to be Muslim to deserve the name of man, but it is very easy to live without discipline. If you agreed to follow rules, you become better than other people. A true Muslim must regard himself as an ordinary part of the universe.

LE MATIN: Is there then only one way of observing the divine precepts?

Ziaul Haq: As you know, God sent the prophet, and the Koran — thebook he dictated — is the last sacred book in my view. The essential components of religion are fundamental and inviolable, although there is room for interpretation. I am not saying that the fundamentalists are the only believers. I can accept the paths followed in Saudi Arabia and Iran, there are always differences, but these are just paths which all stem from the same source.

LE MATIN: Since its creation, Pakistan has been the scene of a debate between the advocates of a secular state, and the advocates of an Islamic state, which you support. The same camps are also opposed on the question of whether the Pakistani state should be strong or decentralized. Are you prepared to accept a national debate on this point?

Ziaul Haq: Out of a desire to bring my opponents round to the right way of thinking, I am prepared to listen to them and talk with them, but there cannot be any compromise on the fundamental principles I uphold. Pakistan was created by Jinnah and dreamed of by Mohammed Iqbal. We demanded a separate state from India because the Muslims form a separate nation from the Hindus and non-Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. We demanded it because the Muslims want a national home in which to live according to Islam's precepts. They do not want a secular state, but an ideological state in which minorities are respected too. We founded the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. So, if you are Pakistani, you cannot be a Muslim in name alone, your very character must be Muslim. Thus those who think that Pakistan should be a secular state are not thinking along the lines of Islam. I am prepared to talk with them, but I will never accept their theories. If you remove Islamic ideology, Pakistan will collapse like a pack of cards. The question of whether Pakistan should be a confederation or a federation, was settled by the 1973 constitution (Footnote 1) (Promulgated by Ali Bhutto) which was approved by all the country's political parties. It was accepted that the provinces would have some rights and privileges, while the central government would be very strong.

LE MATIN: Are you going to ban the secular parties?

Ziaul Haq: Oh, no. They have the right to exist and express their views. They may be "infidels" but they cannot say that Pakistan should be a secular state. They must believe that Pakistan is an ideological state, the nature of which is not open to discussion.

LE MATIN: After the 1977 coup d'etat you entered into a conflict with Ali Bhutto, who was put to death in 1979. Since then you have met the opposition, his family and his party, the Pakistan's People's Party [PPP]. Is there a chance of reconciliation between you and Ali Bhutto's family?

Ziaul Haq: Allow me first to correct some of your statements. I feel no resentment against Mr Bhutto and his family. We have no personal quarrel. Second, I did not put Mr Bhutto to death. Mr Bhutto was condemned to be hanged by Pakistan's Supreme Court, following a normal criminal procedure, and not under martial law before a military court. It is true that the Bhutto family feels great resentment toward me. There are also political disagreements, but, in that sphere, there is always room for agreement.

LE MATIN: Almost all the members of the Bhutto family are in exile. Do you guarantee them the right to return to the country and take an active part in political life?

Ziaul Haq: I would like to point out to you that they all left on their own accord. Begum Bhutto left on the pretext of medical treatment, as did her daughter; as for her sons, they were implicated in hijacking an airplane and legal proceedings have been started against them (Footnote 2) (Reference to the hijacking to Kabul of a Pakistani Airlines plane, carried out by the Al Zulfikar commando group led by Ali Bhutto's sons in 1981. They are now living in Kabul.) Personally, I see no objection to their returning.

LE MATIN: They say they are not safe in Pakistan....

Ziaul Haq: If they do not engage in reprehensible activities they will have no problems. You know that politics here are not the same as in the Western countries. Here political disagreements are matters of life and death. According to the best politicians I know the only way of succeeding is violence. This is also the viewpoint of the PPP, which has adopted agitation as a political method over the past 7 years.

LE MATIN: Amnesty International accuses you of violating human rights in Pakistan....

Ziaul Haq: I will not comment on Amnesty International's reports. Any individual who carries out sabotage and subversion is an enemy of society, and should be treated as such, and this should not be regarded as a violation of human rights.

LE MATIN: You have been in power for 7 years now....

Ziaul Haq: This is my 8th year in office.

LE MATIN: Your 8th year. There do not seem to be any serious threats to your regime, so why are you still maintaining martial law?

Ziaul Haq: I am the product of martial law. This means that there is no law. In 1977 we took action to prevent the civil war which was looming, and, since then, we have been engaged in the process of Islamization. Each time I have proposed elections, the majority of politicians have come to me to say: "General, for the love of God do not hold these elections." I hold my power from the Army, and I am not going to sacrifice that army, which is my only electoral constituency, my power base par excellence. The fact that the people have not risen up against me is a source of very great satisfaction to me and the sign that people respect what we have achieved. No government elected in Pakistan has lasted more than 5 years. You have before you a head of state who has not been elected, who is entering his 8th year in office, and there is nobody to oppose him, as is the case with the general elections to be held in 2 months time.

LE MATIN: What kind of elections are you going to hold?

Ziaul Haq: Just and free elections.

LE MATIN: Open to all parties?

Ziaul Haq: They will be nonparty elections: Each candidate will stand on his own name and not with a label. We hope and will ensure that these candidates are good Pakistanis, not corrupt or people who have been found guilty of crimes.

LE MATIN: Will PPP members be able to stand?

Ziaul Haq: If the electoral commission responsible for accepting candidates agrees.

LE MATIN: Will the parties be able to put across their propaganda?

Ziaul Haq: No, no propaganda will be allowed.

LE MATIN: When will these elections take place?

Ziaul Haq: We have pledged to hold the elections to the National Assembly and the Senate, and to the provincial assemblies before 23 March 1985.

LE MATIN: On 28 November you were visited by U.S. Senator John Glenn who questioned you about your nuclear policy. Are there new developments on this point?

Ziaul Haq: Senator John Glenn is known to be hostile to nuclear proliferation. I met him and he met the main government members, and the director of the Atomic Energy Commission. Pakistan is not engaged in any nuclear arms program. Our technology is strictly for peaceful purposes. There is no Pakistani bomb.

LE MATIN: Your relations with India have been deteriorating for some time. This year there have been border incidents, and the arms race has continued. Do you think India is a threat to Pakistan?

Ziaul Haq: We have nearly 2,000 km of common border. All along this border there are recognized boundaries where incidents are rare. But there is the cease-fire line in Kashmir where our two armies face each other. Incidents are frequent there. Moreover, there is a new element: This year there was an exchange of fire on the Sai Chin glacier in northern Kashmir, when we discovered that Indian soldiers had taken up positions on this portion of territory which is ours by right. Aside from that, there is no serious problem. But, because of the situation in the Indian Punjab, the Indian Army has moved into this province this year to maintain law and order. They have kept us informed so that we would know that these movements were not directed against us. We are very grateful to them for that. I do not think there is a danger of war between our two countries. Moreover, we have launched a peace offensive: Unless something fundamental provides an obstacle I think our relations with India will continue to improve.

LE MATIN: Since 1979 you have accepted more than 3 million Afghan refugees in your border provinces. Do you feel you are controlling the situation there in a satisfactory way?

Ziaul Haq: There are no major problems. In view of the fact that in some areas the refugee population is higher than the Pakistani population, we must pay tribute to the Pakistanis' sense of hospitality, and to the accommodating nature of the refugees. We must also give thanks for the aid given by the Islamic countries, and also the Western countries, like France.

LE MATIN: Are you satisfied with the behavior of the resistance organizations?

Ziaul Haq: Everything is going very well. The refugees have been living in tents for 5 years, with a little rice and wheat, and they never complain. This is thanks to their organizations which have shown perfect discipline and restraint in their actions and statements in Pakistan.

LE MATIN: The negotiations you are conducting with Kabul seem to have reached a deadlock....

Ziaul Haq: We do not recognize the Kabul regime; we want the Soviets to leave Afghanistan, the refugees to return to their country, and the free and nonaligned nature of Afghanistan to be recognized. Finally, we want the Afghans to freely chose their future. But, to attain these objectives, Pakistan cannot use force against a power like the USSR. That is why we have placed ourselves under UN auspices to conduct indirect preliminary negotiations with the Kabul regime. Progress is very slow, but we will continue at all costs.

LE MATIN: The Soviets have stepped up their pressure this year: Your borders have been violated several times. Are these facts not likely to call these negotiations into question?

Ziaul Haq: We must put up with this pressure, because we

cannot take reprisals. If we were to do so it would be the Afghans who would suffer most. Of course, for a military regime like Pakistan, these Soviet bombardments create a very embarrassing situation. It is as if the Soviets were saying to the Pakistanis: Look at your military regime, your generals are impotent, they are engaged in politics instead of carrying out their main task, which should be to defend the country. In fact,these bombardments are part of a deliberate plan to create difficulties for us within the country. And we expect the Soviet troops to deal the mujahidin a heavy blow this winter and, to do this, they are entering our territory and attacking military posts, and even refugee camps. But we must resign ourselves to it.

LE MATIN: Does this mean that if the Soviets enter your territory, you will sit back and do nothing?

Ziaul Haq: Oh, no. We will fight for every inch of our territory, but there will be no reprisals.

LE MATIN: The U.S. Congress has apparently increased its aid to the mujahidin. Will you allow strategic weapons to be brought through your country?

Ziaul Haq: The mujahidin have always succeeded in bringing their equipment secretly into Iranian and Pakistani territory. Nonetheless, Pakistan cannot serve as a channel through which large amounts of arms are officially allowed to pass on their way to Afghanistan, thus prompting an escalation of the conflict which would be bound to extend to our territory. We cannot accept this unless we become strong enough to carry out reprisals in case of aggression against our country.

Ziaul Haq Briefs Newsmen on Referendum

BK120630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the forthcoming referendum is not a presidential election but only the seeking of a mandate for ensuring continuity and stability. Addressing a press conference in Lahore last night at the conclusion of his 4-day visit to Punjab Province, he said the mandate is being sought because no country can afford uncertainty about its future system of government and leadership. The president added that it should be remembered that the military government is trying to transfer power to elected representatives under the plan announced on 12 August last year.

Referring to the question being asked in the referendum, the president said it is very simple. The people have been asked whether they support and endorse the government's Islamic policy. They are absolutely free to say yes or no. He emphasized, however, that the atmosphere will not be allowed to be polluted on any pretext. He said the decision to hold a referendum on the basis of the present government's 7 years performance is a bold one, and there could be no better alternative. The president declared that he will respect the verdict of the people.

Answering a question, the president said that the government is actively considering lifting the regulation on presenting national identification cards for voting in the referendum without amending the relevant legislation. The measure is being taken in view of the fact that about 20 percent of the eligible voters do not have national identification cards. He added, however, that no decision has been taken in this connection.

Answering a question about his meeting with the amir of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, Mian Tufail Mohammad, the president said he has been in touch with many political leaders, both directly and indirectly.

Afghan Aircraft Violate Airspace 11 December

BK120618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Afghan military aircraft have again violated Pakistan's airspace, over which Pakistan has lodged a very strong protest with the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad.

The violation was committed by two Afghan military aircraft in the Towr Koral area of Khurram Agency. These aircraft flew 2 km inside Pakistani territory and dropped 4 bombs and fired some rockets. There was, however, no loss of life or property.

The Afghan charge d'affaires has been told that such unprovoked violations of Pakistani territory from the Afghanistan side are increasing tension and posing a threat to the peace and stability of the region. The Afghan charge d'affaires has been told to ask the Kabul administration to refrain from such violations, failing which they will be responsible for the consequences.

The UN secretary general has been informed of this latest violation from the Afghan side.

uf headlineIshaq Khan To Head Delegation for Sanaa Meeting

BK121029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] The next Islamic foreign ministers conference begins at Sanaa, the capital of the Yemen Arab Republic, on the 18th of this month. Pakistan will be represented at the conference by the federal minister for finance and commerce, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, as the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, is indisposed. The conference will be preceded by a meeting of senior officials on the 16th and 17th of this month. The Pakistan delegation at the meeting of officials will be led by the foreign secretary.

DAWN Comments on Lessons of Bhopal Disaster

GF111250 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Dec 84 p 9

[Editorial: "The Lessons of Bhopal"]

[Text] As the death toll in the Bhopal poison gas disaster rises into four figures, the prospect of the tragedy assuming even more staggering proportions looms large. Even after the immediate deaths are recorded, the physical and economic aftermath have yet to be assessed. The effects of slow poisoning from the cyanide affecting blood, heart, liver, spleen and even brain functions will only be known after some years.

Soil, vegetable and water contamination can carry the poison to those who escaped the initial assault. The Bhopal disaster harks back to an earlier incident in 1976 in Seveso, Italy, where a reactor used in the manufacture of a herbicide, blew a poisonous cloud containing dioxin (the defoliant used in Vietnam) into the atmosphere. The result was skin diseases and a dramtic rise in the number of deformed births.

Measures subsequently taken within the framework of a decontamination programme included evacuating the population, cutting away the top soil to a depth of 20 centimetres over an area of 320 hectares and the burning of vegetation, dead animals and contaminated material in furnaces specially constructed for the purpose.

It is difficult to see how India with far more limited resources than Seveso and which is already facing problems in cremating its dead humans, can institute such extensive decontamination measures. It is incumbent upon the multinational company which owned the Bhopal factory to contribute direct aid as well as provide compensation to the victims of the disaster. The multinational which was responsible for the Seveso disaster paid 11 million dollars in direct aid as well as another 11 million dollars in compensation to the people of Seveso.

Multinationals are often suspected of adopting a cavalier attitude in regard to safety and work standards in their factories in Third World countries which would not be tolerated in their home bases.

One hopes that the multinational whose plant caused the Bhopal disaster would allay this impression by adequately compensating the affected people and families and by adopting effective safeguards against future mishaps.

The Third World must draw some lessons from the Bhopal tragedy. The siting of factories producing dangerous chemicals near urban centres is a practice fraught with grave dangers. Leaving aside the possibility of a leak of a lethal chemical, the regular dumping of chemical waste and the pollution that results from the manufacture of chemicals causes other, milder kinds of poisoning on a large scale in urban areas. The Lyari River in Karachi carries chemical effluents through the heart of one of the most heavily populated areas in the city. No one has as yet bothered to gauge the physical effects of this procedure on the local population but one can venture to guess that the population of Lyari is not amongst the healthiest in the city.

Again, the siting of the Karachi nuclear power plant at a distance of barely ten miles from the industrial suburb of Karachi is a cause for unease. The consequences of a major accident at the reactor or insufficient care in the disposal of its deadly waste are too horrible to even contemplate.

It is also widely known that Third World governments are notoriously slack about enforcing safety measures at work. The regulatory bodies, especially those dealing with plants where dangerous materials are manufactured, need to be strengthened. The inclusion of local citizens and union officials in the membership of these bodies might serve to ensure stricter surveillance of safety measures at such places. As India mourns her dead, the rest of the Third World must learn the lessons of Bhopal and not allow technology to become a god on whose altar thousands of lives must be sacrificed.

SRI LANKA

National Security Minister Meets Religious Group

BK111705 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] More than 200 members of the Mahasangha [religious organization] met the minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali, this afternoon and discussed the present situation in the country. They pledged their fullest cooperation to the president and the National Security minister at this juncture.

Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that the government was following three ways to find a solution to the current situation. He said that although we were Buddhists, we had to use arms even with hesitation. Second was mass media. We had to inform the world of the real facts. This would help to wipe out the wrong impressions the other countries had about Sri Lanka. The third method was to find a political solution. The president will present proposals to the all-party conference that will be convened at the end of the week.

Mr Athulathmudali further said that the Mahasangha should tour villages and explain the real situation to the people.

Meanwhile, various organizations and individuals donated a sum of nearly 500,000 rupees toward the national security fund today.

Security Forces Continue Jaffna Operations

BK111629 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Security forces are continuing their operations in the north to flush out terrorists. In the Chulipuram area in Jaffna, the security forces carried out one of their largest combing and search operations today. Military sources disclosed that in one encounter with the terrorists, the security forces have been able to recover the car stolen by the terrorists from the Jaffna government agent. The car carrying terrorists had been encountered at Chulipuram and the terrorists are reported to have fired at the army. In the exchange of fire, one terrorist died and two others were seriously injured. A [words indistinct] weapons of Indian make was recovered from the car.

The security forces also found bodies of a number of youths in a thicket near Chulipuram. According to information available to the army, these youths had died in a gun battle between the rival terrorist groups.

Meanwhile, residents in Kilinochchi and Jaffna were given an opportunity to buy food stocks yesterday in preparation for the going curfew which will end only on Thursday at 0600.

Cash rewards will be paid immediately to those giving information leading to the discovery of weapons and explosives in the possession of terrorists. The Ministry of National Security says that the security of the informants will be ensured and no one will know from where or from whom the information came.

Hard-Core Terrorists Rounded Up

BK121053 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Security forces were able to take a large number of suspected terrorists into custody during raids conducted in Jaffna yesterday. The Ministry of National Security reports that there are a number of hard-core terrorists among them. Several suspected terrorists have also been taken into custody from the Kalmunai area. A spokesman for the National Security Ministry told Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation this morning that many detainees have been brought to Colombo under tight security. Criminal investigation department officers and a special army team are conducting investigations.

Khomeyni Names 8 to Cultural Revolution Headquarters

LD111833 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, today appointed eight people, among them highest ranking government officials, members of the cultural revolution headquarters, retaining older members in their positions with the council. The new members who have joined the headquarters are President 'Ali Khamene'i, Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ayatollah M.R. Mahdavi-Kani, secretary general of the combatant Ulema Society of Tehran, Education Minister Reza Akrami, Seyyed Reza Davari, Nassrollah Purjavadi and Mohammad-Reza Hashemi who will continue to retain their offices while also working in the council.

In a message published by the imam's office here today Imam Khomeyni reminded educators and the nation that because universities and colleges constitute a basic groundwork for the Islamic Revolution and because the higher education system in the country needs to be recast in keeping with the goals of the revolution, the council had to be bolstered by the addition of new members.

The imam reminded that for years before the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, exotic but alien values of the Western and Eastern cultures had been deliberately fostered in the Iranian universities and institutes of higher education bereaving the education system in the country from its Islamic and national identity.

He noted that the task of recasting college curriculum and a new higher education system in the contry required appointment of more expert members to the headquarters so that more people could contribute to the task.

He also commended the accomplishments of the council towards revolutionizing college curriculum in keeping with the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution.

Prime Minister on Forces Opposing Muslim Unity

LD112142 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi told a group of Prime Ministry staffers here on Monday that the arrogant world powers hate to see Muslims united and that for a long time now they have been trying every possible scheme for dividing Muslims and pitting them against one another. He said Islam makes absolutely no distinction between peoples by reason of their race, colour, language or other and is in this respect a unique pillar capable of supporting all Muslims and believers.

He said throughout history, the people wielding power have done so by dividing the masses and arousing in each and every sector of them racist sentiments essentially detrimental to their unity as a homogeneous people.

He cited Zionism as a cult based on racist considerations and that it is exploited as a working weapon for implementing the policies of the big powers.

Musavi said that a principal peculiarity of the Islamic Revolution is its emphasis on the unity of all Muslims throughout the world, and that inspired by the Holy Koran and by Imam Khomeyni's guidelines, Iran's foreign policies are formulated first and foremost with the idea of presenting a good model to other Muslims of the world.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,938

LD111457 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced in its 1,938th communique issued Tuesday evening that the Islamic combatants demolished 12 enemy group bunkers and observation posts in the northwestern and western battlefronts during the past 24 hours.

Exchange of fire continued in the western operational fronts being more intense in Shahrani, Zobeydeh, Talayeh, Shalamcheh and Kushk regions.

Iraqi movements were halted in these fronts by the Islamic combatants, it said.

In Abadan and Khorramshahr regions, the Islamic combatants zeroed in on Iraqi positions in west of the Arvand River, demolishing five group bunkers and killing their crew. A truck carrying personnel was also set ablaze in the same region during the said period.

Various parts of Abadan were hit by Iraqi mortar fire during the past 24 hours as a result of which four civilians were wounded and five houses were damaged. Fire broke out in one case, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Joint Staff Command Denies Iraqi Attacks

LD111823 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — A spokesman for the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today denied Baghdad's claim Monday of having attacked commercial vessels heading for Iranian ports at the Persian Gulf.

Nautical sources in Manama had confirmed Monday that they had received no report whatsoever of any vessels being hit by missile or facing any problem.

The spokesman said that ever since the Islamic Republic declared exclusion of residential areas in Iraq from its military attacks it has spared all living quarters in Iraq while despite a similar commitment by Baghdad, the Iraqi Government has continued its sporadic attacks upon residential quarters in border towns and cities.

The military source added that some time ago the Baghdad government had claimed that the Iranian forces had shelled residential areas in Basra but that a visiting U.N. delegation had disproved the Iraqi claim.

Pakistani President Cables Thanks to Khamene'i

LD111730 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tehran Dec. 11 IRNA — In a message to Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i, the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabali, thanked the Islamic Republic Government for its efforts in bringing the six-day hijacking ordeal to a Kuwaiti passanger plane to a peaceful end.

A similar message was cabled to Prime Minister Musavi of the Islamic Republic by his Kuwaiti counterpart Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan sent a message to President Khamene'i in which he expressed "deep appreciation" on his own behalf and on behalf of the Pakistani nation, for the "successful" conclusion of the "unpleasant event".

In another message to Prime Minister Musavi, President Zia described as "commendable" the patience of the Iranian authorities involved in the negotiations with the hijackers to save the lives of the passengers.

He also expressed appreciatrion for the "warm welcome and reception" given by Iran to the freed passengers who were mostly Pakistanis, including women and children.

Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, the foreign affairs minister of Pakistan also cabled a message of congratulations to his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velatati. He said in the message that "we were greatly impressed" by the concern shown by the government of the Islamic Republic to put a peaceful end to the hijacking episode.

'American Mercenaries' Clash With Citizens

GF111230 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Nov 84 p 27

[Excerpts] Tehran, IRNA: This morning the Muslim and hezbollahi people of Khazaneh-Bokharani district, with alertness and self-sacrifice, stood up to three armed American mercenaries who were trying to escape after an unsuccessful attempt to kill a merchant. One of the hypocrites was arrested but committed suicide by exploding a granade.

The alert and self-sacrificing confrontation of the responsible Muslim people of the Khazaneh-Bokharani districts against the armed American mercenaries repeatedly emphasizes the unity and collusion of the counterrevolution with the world oppression. It is also proof that they have no place among the oppressed, heroic people. Through their self-sacrifice, the true owners of the revolution will be willing to give up their dear lives in confronting such blind and suicidal actions and will prevent anyone from attacking the foundation of the Islamic Revolution.

Iraqi Training Session Opens in Tehran

GF120611 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the Prophet's birthday and the birthday of Imam Ja'far Sadeq, the first training session of the Iraqi mobilization forces was opened in Tehran yesterday. The ceremony was attended by officials and cadres of SAIRI and by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, the official in charge of the mobilization unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards in Iran.

Turkish Transport Delegation Arrives

LD111914 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA — The Turkish minister of transport and communication, Veysel Atasoy, arrived here Tuesday heading a 9-man delegation.

The delegation was welcomed by Iranian minister of roads and transportation, Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, and the Turkish ambassador to the Islamic republic, Ismet Birsel.

Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan told IRNA that Iran wanted to bring some changes in a ground transportation resolution concluded between the two countries in 1980.

He added that Iran would make some proposals and expressed the hope the two sides would reach suitable agreements.

Irna will propose, he said, that an equal number of Iranian trucks be allowed to transport goods to Turkey.

Also, it would be suggested that the commodities which are imported via Turkey and Europe would as much as possible be transferred by the Iranian state railways.

On air transportation, he said Iran wanted to use airplanes with a larger seating capacity between the two countries. He expressed the hope that good results would be achieved in this area.

Meanwhile, the Turkish minister hoped that a letter of understanding would be signed between the two countries during his stay.

The Turkish delegation arrived here at the invitation of the Government of the Islamic Republic. The trip is also in connection with the decisions of the annual Irano-Turkish Ground Transportation Commission.

The Turkish delegation is to meet with several Iranian ministers and high-ranking officials during its stay. They are also scheduled to inspect the Arak machinery manufacturing factories in central province.

Tudeh, Feda'iyan-e Khalq Joint Statement
TA111222 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Dec 84

["Text" of Joint Statement by Central Committees of Iranian Tudeh Party and Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization — Majority; dated 8 December 1984 — read by announcer]

[Text] Compatriots: The leaders of the Islamic Republic have committed a dreadful new crime. In the course of the strike by 10,000 workers and employees of the Esfahan steel mill, the regime's repressive organs arrested 20 workers and executed 10 of them in the factory's premises without the slightest legal justification, violating the most elementary human rights, with the aim of intimidating the struggling workers. This crime, however — which unveils the nature of the dictatorial medieval regime ruling over the lives, property, and honor of the working masses — was not able to deter the steadfast struggle of the heroic, selfless workers of the Esfahan steel mill against the regime's antipeople policy which aimed to destroy one of the most important and sensitive bases for the achievement of Iran's economic independence, the Esfahan steel complex.

The foes of Iran's independence, who a long time ago had launched widespread propaganda against the only industrial complex relying on the country's domestic resources, finally succeeded, under the pretext that it was unprofitable, in winning approval for their deeply antinational plan of dividing the Esfahan steel complex into separate units under the (?guise) of so-called cooperatives with the aim of handing over profitable units to major capitalists. Should this plan be implemented, not only will a fatal blow be dealt our weak national economy, but more than 5,000 of Iran's skilled industrial workers will join the army of the unemployed.

Realizing the dimensions of this great treachery, the struggling workers of Esfahan's steel mill launched a hard and proud battle 3 weeks ago to neutralize this treasonous act by the government. The strike by the workers of the (?high furnace) unit was soon transformed into a general strike at the steel mill. Right now the strike by 10,000 steel employees is continuing despite the regime's crime.

The new (?wave) of the workers' strike campaign, as well as the regime's savage reprisal, has begun at a time when the leaders of the Islamic Republic have adopted an antipeople policy of reviving the dependent capitalist system and reconstructing the lost positions of imperialism and plundering foreign monopolies. By continuing the futile destructive war they have placed our homeland on the verge of total economic and financial collapse.

By openly betraying the revolution's popular targets, the regime's leaders see an attack against the interests of the working masses as their problems. As during the shah's oppressive era, in order to carry out their antipeople policy, they seek assistance from repressive organs. The arrest of a number of workers and engineers, the brutal execution of 10 workers, and laying siege to the factory by the Guards Corps, are indications of the concern by reactionary rulers over the escalation of the battle of Iran's working class.

Major capitalists, large landowners, and their associates in the Islamic Republic's leadership were alarmed at the expansion of the labor movement in the country, and hoped that by a savage onslaught against the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization — Majority — and by staging sham trials and delivering a group of defenders of the country's workers to the firing squads, the rightful voice of workers would be stilled.

The intensification of the scope of the strike campaign by Iran's working class, including the strike by 10,000 heroic workers of Esfahan's steel mill, is proof of the defeat of the Islamic Republic regime's antilabor policy.

The Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party, and the Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Organization — Majority — strongly condemn the brutal massacre of workers, and demand the immediate punishment of those who ordered this criminal act. The demand of employees and workers to halt the plan of handing over the profitable units of the steel complex to major capitalists, under guise of allegedly incorporating them into cooperatives, is just and should be fulfilled.

We call on all workers of various units of the steel complex in other towns, as well as on all workers of other industrial institutions, to rush to the aid of their brothers in Esfahan and to condemn the crime of the regime's repressive organs, by organizing strikes and solidarity demonstrations.

It should not be forgotten for one moment that today it is the turn of Esfahan's workers, and tomorrow it will be your turn. The regime should not be allowed to encroach on one of the Iranian people's gains in the country's contemporary history. Iranian workers, who have gained experience from the liberation movement during the years of the shah's oppression, are well aware that only through a unified and organized struggle can one become victorious over the enemies of the people who have adopted a path of treason against our national interests. Their plans to destroy Iran can be neutralized.

The Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party, and the Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization — Majority — express their condolences on the martyrdom of 10 struggling workers of the Esfahan steel mill to their families and to all Iranian workers. Their memory will remain eternal, along with the thousands of other freedom martyrs of the working class.

Greetings to the struggling workers and employees of the Esfahan steel complex! Long live Iran's working class, the sole consistent and steadfast fighter for independence, freedom and social justice!

[Signed] Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party, Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq Iran Organization — Majority

[Dated] 8 December 1984

London KEYHAN on Tudeh Party's Position

GF091422 London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Nov p 16

[Political analysis: "Will the Tudeh Party Leave the Ayatollah?"]

[Text] Will the Tudeh Party finally separate itself from Ayatollah Khomeyni? Such a question may seem amazing, considering the fact that many of the leaders of the party are in Islamic jails. However, the reality is that the Tudeh Party which was the staunchest supporter of Velayat-e Faqih a year before the revolution is still hopeful of maintaining its ties with the republic.

In March this year, following the reorganization of the party leadership, they published an article criticizing the policies of the ayatollah. After that, *PRAVDA*, the official publication of the CPSU, published a number of articles by Tudeh Party leaders and activists, all of which opposed the Islamic government. However, a part of the new leadership insisted that the policies of Dr Kianuri concerning unconditional support for the republic of the ayatollah should continue. This position by some of the leaders and activists of the party is based on the assumption that the Khomeyni regime should be supported in any case in its "anti-imperialist" position. Even if such support harms the Tudeh Party, the important issue will be the uprooting of Western influence, especially that of the United States, in Iran. In this assumption the existence of the party is secondary.

It now seems that this group has been defeated in the internal party struggle and that the Tudeh Party is more or less trying to join the ranks of the unconditional opposers of the republic. The Tudeh Party has ordered its activists to work against the Iran-Iraq war and the slogan of "Death to Reaction" has been adopted as the main party slogan. The Soviet news agency TASS carried a statement this month signed by the leadership of the party in which it accused the government of the ayatollahs of torturing the jailed leaders of the party.

Tudeh Party observers say that the party is still hoping to reach some form of agreement with the clerical leadership in Tehran and find a niche in Islamic society for itself. The Tudeh Party has not yet officially rejected the principle of "Velayat-e Faqih" and accepts the constitution of the Islamic Republic. So long as the party has not openly and officially risen against the Velayat-e Faqih, it cannot be considered an opposition to the regime.

These observers add that another important point is that this party has not attacked Ayatollah Khomeyni himself, contrary to other organizations opposing the regime and is not also naming other main characters of the republic. The hope of the party leadership is to keep doors slightly ajar. Since the Tudeh Party reflects the policies of the Soviet Union in Iran and when possible implements them, it can be said that Moscow does not wish to completely sever ties with the ayatollah yet.

Afghan Rebels Attack Hotel, Prison

LD112256 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 11, IRNA — Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel which lodges newsmen from the Eastern block was shelled last week by Afghan mujahidin. Two mortars reportedly hit the ground near the hotel, but no report has been released in relation with possible casualities. The newsmen were staying in the hotel for covering a conference of SWAPO (South West African Peoples' Organization).

Sources here also say that Afghan mujahidin also shelled the Pol-I-Sharki prison 20 kilometres from Kabul destroying one surveillance post of the prison compounds. Pol-I-Sharki is a prison for Afghan dissidents. Members of mujahidin last week also attacked an officers college 20-kms from Pol-I-Sharki killing a number of government groups and inflicting heavy property damages.

Fighting between militant Muslims and government and Soviet troops now continues in the south of Afghanistan and in Qandahar.

CORRECTION TO KHOMEYNI ADDRESS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Khomeyni Address Justifies Pursuing Gulf War," published in the 11 December South Asia *DAILY REPORT*, page I 1, paragraph eight, line two:

...Still, it is said that the Iranian authorities were involved in it....(changing word "sad" to "said")